

A HISTORY OF EDUCATION OF CLAY COUNTY INDIANA

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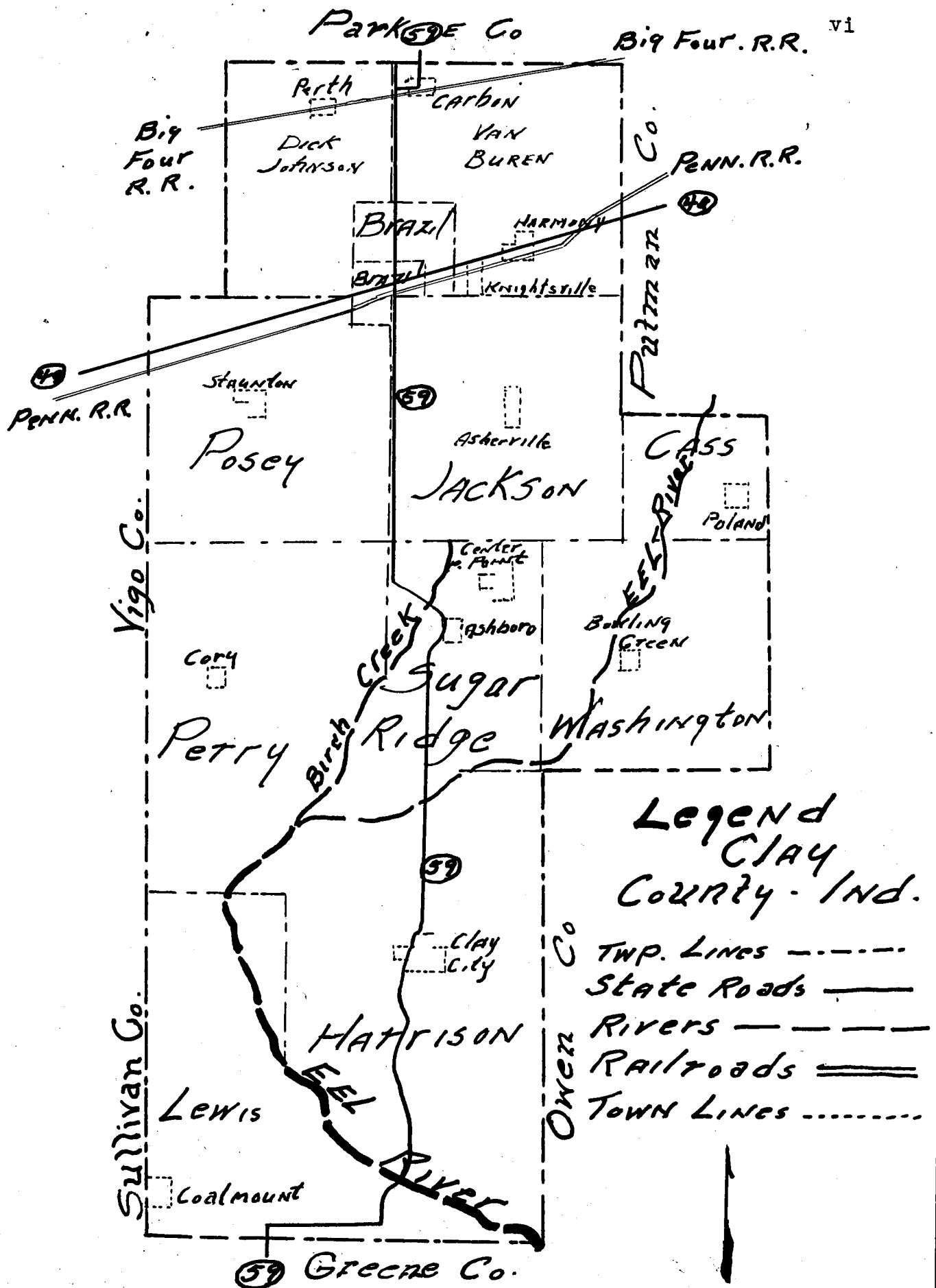
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

So far as the writer has been able to determine, little has heretofore been done in compiling a history of education in Clay County. It is therefore the purpose of the writer to compile for the people of Clay County a history of its schools from their beginning to the present time. First, the writer has presented historical, geographical, and economic facts relating to the county in so far as these facts have a bearing on the subject of education. Second, the facts are presented regarding the early schools, early teachers, and items of a miscellaneous nature for each of the townships and corporations in the county. The writer has attempted to bring these points down to date. Third, the supervision and administration of the schools have been discussed with emphasis upon the early school officials, such as the county school examiner, county superintendent, county attendance officer, county board of education, the township trustees, and the advisory board of the townships. The most important powers and duties of these officials have been noted. Fourth, the writer has attempted to make a study of the various sources of financial support of the schools and to note the ability of each township and corporation to support education.

In the preparation of this thesis the writer has used many sources of data. The most valuable information was secured from histories, old records and reports, and personal interviews. A history of Clay County¹ and a history of Clay and Owen Counties,² proved of very great value. Some of the information is taken from observations by the writer.

¹ William Travis, A History of Clay County, Indiana. (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1909).

² Charles Blanchard, Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana. (Chicago: F. A. Battey and Company, 1884).

CHAPTER II

EARLY HISTORY

Clay county, Indiana, is located in the southwest quarter of the state. Parke and Putnam Counties bound it on the north, Putnam and Owen Counties on the east, Owen and Greene Counties on the south, and Sullivan and Vigo Counties on the west. The original boundary lines of the county have never undergone any change. The county has a maximum length, from north to south, of thirty miles, and a maximum width, from east to west, of sixteen miles. The area of the county is 360 square miles. The county is divided into eleven townships which are as follows: Brazil, Cass, Dick Johnson, Harrison, Jackson, Lewis, Perry, Posey, Sugar Ridge, Van Buren, and Washington.

The first settlements in Clay County were made mainly on the bluffs and knolls along Eel River in what are now Cass and Washington Townships. The larger part of the county is drained by Eel River and its tributaries. In most instances the location of a spring determined the point of settlement. Many of these original home sites are the least valuable lands in the county today.

It is believed that the first settler to locate in what is now Clay County was David Thomas.¹ He settled on the bluff

¹ Charles Blanchard, Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana. (Chicago: F. A. Battey and Company, 1884). p. 28.

overlooking Eel River, a short distance northwest of Bowling Green, in the fall of 1812. In the fall of 1817, Samuel' Risley came from Knox County and located on the west side of Eel River in what is now Cass Township.

Mr. Risley, as a member of William Henry Harrison's army, was returning to Vincennes after having taken part in the Battle of Tippecanoe. On passing through what is now Cass Township, he was very much impressed by the region and remarked to his comrades that on being mustered out of military service he was going to return with his family to this region and construct a cabin.² This he did and on February 13, 1820, to this family was born the first white child in Clay County, Eliza Risley. At the time Mr. Risley settled in Clay County, that territory was a part of Owen County and Mr. Risley was chosen as a member of the county board, which corresponds very closely to the present board of county commissioners. In 1822, Putnam County was organized and Clay County became a part of that county. Mr. Risley, becoming a resident of Putnam County soon became a member of the county board for that county.³ Three years later, in 1825, Clay County was organized and Mr. Risley became a resident of that county and subsequently a member of the county board. In this Mr. Risley enjoyed an experience, of which few men have the privilege. Without any change of

² A personal interview by the author with Harry Diel, grandson of Samuel Risley, July 22, 1936.

³ Charles Blanchard, op. cit., p. 28.

residence, and within a period of five years, he was a citizen and an officer of three different counties. Mr. Risley became one of the first associate judges in the county and it is also claimed that he taught the first school. He was also a civil engineer and helped survey the National Road through a part of Indiana and Illinois.

In the years following 1821 settlements were made in all parts of the county and the writer in discussing the schools of the various townships will attempt to touch upon the early history of each township. The early settlements of Clay County were composed of pioneers from several different states. The larger part of the early population, however, came from Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and the Carolinas.⁴

Daniel Harris is regarded by many as the father of Clay County. He, as a member of the General Assembly of Indiana from Owen County, presented the bill creating Clay County in 1825. It was he who also named the county because he was a great admirer of the statesman, Henry Clay.

Clay County does not contain a large foreign born population. The east central part of the county was settled mainly by people of German descent. This comprises one of the most prosperous agricultural sections of the county. In the northern part of the county after the discovery of coal, the establishment of rolling mills and the clay industry, a number of English,

⁴ Charles Blanchard, op. cit., p. 33.

Scotch, and Belgian families located. The city of Brazil has a number of negro families. No separate schools are provided for the children of these negro families.

What is said about the early industries in Clay County would also be true of other pioneer counties. These industries supplied the population with their immediate wants. First in importance were the pioneer mills.

The manufacture of spinning wheels was essential and there was also a woolen factory established. In addition to these there were a number of tanneries, a brewery, and a distillery. Barrel, hoop, chair, and shingle production was carried on.

The first church society in the county was the Eel River Association of Predestinarian Baptists, organized as early as 1825. The first preaching was done at Purnell Chance's house, a mile and a half west of Poland. About 1828, this society built the first church house in the county. It was a hewn log house 20 feet by 24 feet with a puncheon floor and two fireplaces. All pioneers in the neighborhood joined in the building of this church house and it was open to all denominations. The Missionary Baptists organized in the southern part of the county as early as 1832. Many other church societies have been organized. Few of them were formed before 1840. These included the United Brethren, Methodist, Presbyterian, Christian, Roman Catholic, Congregational, and a number of German Church societies.⁵

⁵ Charles Blanchard, op. cit., p. 81.

Owing to the absence of records for the first twenty-five years of the county's existence, its political and official history can only be given approximately. This is due to the fact that on the night of November 30, 1851, the courthouse was destroyed by fire, consuming all the public records except those of the recorder's office, which were at that time kept by the recorder in his tailor shop across the street from the courthouse. Jesse McIntire, became the first sheriff; Elijah Rawley, clerk and recorder; John Ewing, judge; William Maxwell and Daniel Walker, associate judges; John Wheeler, coroner; and Jesse Fuller, auditor.⁶

The first county seat was located at Bowling Green in Washington Township and remained there until 1877 when the records were removed by wagons to Brazil. It is probably true that no other question has agitated the people of Clay County more than that of relocating the county seat.⁷ The development of the natural resources of the northern part of the county thus causing an increase in population, coupled with the inability of the voters to agree upon a more centrally located site for the county seat, led to the selection of Brazil. Here, in 1914, was completed one of the finest courthouses to be found in any county in the state, accommodating all of the county officers. The first courthouse at Bowling Green was a two-story hewn-log

⁶ William Travis, A History of Clay County, Indiana. (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1909). pp. 178-182.

⁷ William Travis, op. cit., p. 23.

building about 24 feet by 30 feet constructed in 1827. It was located on the north side of the street opposite the public square. The courtroom was on the lower floor, the upper floor serving for the county officers and the jury. The first jail was a one-story log building. These buildings were used until 1839 when a two-story brick courthouse was constructed on the public square. At this time the jail was moved and was later replaced by a two-story brick building in 1861, costing \$3,750 which was used until the county seat was moved to Brazil. The building is now used as a dwelling. The brick courthouse constructed in 1839 was used until it was destroyed by fire, November 30, 1851. A new building was built on the same site costing \$11,000 and occupied in 1853 and used until the removal of the county seat to Brazil.

A few years ago this building was struck by lightning and burned. An Old Settlers' Picnic is held annually on the public square where these early public buildings stood. The first courthouse in Brazil was erected at a cost of \$13,300 and occupied in 1877. A new jail was erected in Brazil at a cost of \$7,000. It is in use at the present time and contains the residence of the sheriff.

Clay County has made provisions for its unfortunate citizens by providing a county farm consisting of 200 acres in Washington Township near Bowling Green. An orphans' home is located at Knightsville in Van Buren Township.

Clay County is well supplied with transportation facilities. In the early days a section of the Wabash and Erie Canal

known as the Cross Cut was used about ten years and by that time railroad transportation was replacing water transportation. The National Road passes through the northern part of the county for a distance of twelve miles. The road was surveyed in 1832 and by 1835 was put in a passable condition. In 1933 Clay County had 425.28 miles of improved roads and 327.79 of unimproved, making a total of 750.27 miles.⁸ Due to a road building moratorium in recent years the improved road mileage remains practically the same. The total railroad mileage in Clay County is approximately 200 miles. An interurban line crosses the northern part of the county. It is said the first interurban line in the United States was constructed in Clay County in 1894.⁹ It was 4.4 miles in length.

Transportation is important as it bears upon the subject of education. Improved highways make it possible to bring about consolidation of schools and thus the broadening of educational opportunities. Railroads and interurban lines are heavy tax payers and contribute much toward the financial support of the schools.

The Indiana Globe was the first newspaper published in Clay County. It was published at Bowling Green in 1846 but existed only a short time. It was followed by the Eel River Propeller published in Bowling Green in 1853. The Clay County

⁸ County Highway Superintendent's Report. 1933.

⁹ William Travis, op. cit., p. 57.

Advocate succeeded the Propeller in 1855.¹⁰ Of the many newspapers that have been established in the county, only three remain today: The Brazil Daily Times, The Brazil Gazette, and the Clay City News.

The purpose of the writer in this chapter has been to give briefly some of the facts bearing on the early history and development of the county and to show that the advancement of today is the result of the early settlers having laid well the foundations for the success of later generations.

¹⁰

William Travis, op. cit., p. 90.

CHAPTER III

HISTORY, ORGANIZATION, AND PRESENT CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS BRAZIL TOWNSHIP

Brazil Township is the smallest township in Clay County and also one of the smallest in the state. It was organized in 1868 and was carved out of Dick Johnson, Van Buren, and Posey Townships. The reason for its organization was that it would be more convenient for the citizens of the region. Table I gives the area and date of organization of the different townships in the county.

Owen Thorpe is regarded as the founder of the city of Brazil, however, there may have been a few families living in what is now Brazil Township before his settlement. Mr. Thorpe purchased land in 1838 and the town was laid out in 1844. The following year, 1845, an addition was made and Mr. Thorpe showed his interest in education and schools by donating one lot for school purposes. This lot was located on the southeast corner of State and Franklin Streets. Here on this site in the same year a log building was constructed by private donations, the only outlay of cash being \$4.45, the cost of glass and nails.¹ This building served as school, church, and town hall.

¹ Charles Blanchard, Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana. (Chicago: F. A. Battey and Company, 1884). p. 141.

TABLE I
DATE OF ORGANIZATION AND AREA OF THE
TOWNSHIPS IN CLAY COUNTY²

Township	Date of organization	Area in square miles
Brazil	1868	6 1/4
Cass	1840	12
Dick Johnson	1837	21 1/2
Harrison	1825 (original)	68 1/2
Jackson	1832	36
Lewis	1835	40 1/2
Perry	1825 (original)	44
Posey	1828	36
Sugar Ridge	1854	27
Van Buren	1837	32 1/4
Washington	1825 (original)	36
Total		360

² William Travis, A History of Clay County, Indiana.
(New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1909). p. 8.

In 1866, Brazil was incorporated as a town and in 1873 secured a charter as a city. Brazil has enjoyed advantages that have in some measure accounted for its growth. It is a National Road city and no doubt owes something of its early growth to this road. In addition, vast resources of coal and clay have been a source of wealth. Brazil is also surrounded by a region that is fairly rich agriculturally. From this small beginning of approximately a century ago Brazil has developed into a thriving small city of between eight and nine thousand inhabitants.

Before the incorporation of Brazil and the organization of the township some pupils attended the schools of Dick Johnson and Van Buren Townships. At the present time there are two district schools outside Brazil city. These two schools are under the administration and supervision of the township trustee and county superintendent. The enrollment of these two schools for 1936-1937 was forty-seven and only two teachers are employed.

It could be said that the educational interests of Brazil have kept pace with the material interests. Following the erection of the first school, which has been mentioned, there was built in 1863 a one room frame building on the corner where Kruzan and Meridian streets join. In 1868, John Hendrix gave to the town an acre of ground on what is now North Meridian street, to be used for school purposes. On this site a building was completed in 1870 and is still in use. This is known as the Meridian Street School. As the enrollment increased it was necessary to construct additional buildings and even in 1882

the Congregational Church building on Washington Street was purchased and fitted as temporary school quarters.

The Brazil school system today consists of a senior high school, a junior high school, and six grade schools. There is an athletic field and one of the finest and largest gymnasiums in the state. The Brazil Junior High School was one of the three such schools recognized by the state board of education in 1919.³

The Brazil High School was the first to be established in Clay County. The first building used for high school purposes was the Meridian street building. Later the present junior high school building was constructed and when it could no longer accommodate the increased enrollment, the present senior high school building was constructed and occupied in 1916. The date of the organizing of the first high school in Brazil was 1885, although some high school work had been done as early 1881. J. C. Gregg and T. N. James were the first superintendent and principal respectively. The first graduating class of 1885 consisted of one graduate. The 1937 graduating class contains 158 members, the largest in the history of the school.

Table II contains the names, date of appointment and years of service of those who have served as superintendents of the Brazil schools.

During the school year of 1936 and 1937 there were sixty teachers and seven supervisors employed in the schools of Brazil.

³ State Department of Public Instruction, Bulletin No. 100, Revised Edition, 1930.

TABLE II
NAMES, DATE OF APPOINTMENT, AND YEARS
OF SERVICE OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF
BRAZIL CITY⁵

Name	Date of appointment	Years of service
E. R. Smith	1870	2
C. P. Eppert	1872	2
M. S. Wilkinson	1874	1
C. P. Eppert	1875	2
J. C. Gregg	1877	5
A. D. Hurst	1882	1
J. C. Gregg	1883	1
J. M. Brown	1884	1
J. C. Gregg	1885	14
W. H. Fertig	1899	3
L. B. Odell	1902	5
C. C. Coleman	1907	7
C. P. Kellar	1914	Present superintendent

⁵ Personal interview by the writer with T. N. James, pioneer teacher, January 20, 1937.

There are two music and two physical education supervisors and a supervisor for each, vocational agriculture, industrial arts and home economics. There is also included in the total number of teachers an opportunity teacher for retarded students. The enrollment for the school year of 1936-1937, in both the grades and the high school, was 2087, 112 of which were negro children.⁴

Information concerning the first parochial school in Brazil is rather meager. It is the only one in Clay County. The first teacher was Mrs. Elizabeth Barnett, who was assisted at times by her stepdaughter, Miss Lydia Barnett, a non-catholic. This last fact is a very interesting one. These early teachers were assisted by the parish priest. As nearly as can be determined the first school was established in 1878 and continued until 1882 when the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana, came to take charge of the school. The first Sisters sent to Brazil were Sister M. Christina, Sister M. Victorine, and Sister M. Norburta. The Sisters of St. Francis remained in charge until 1932, when the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary of the Woods took charge. At present Sister Rosallen, Sister Agnes Mary, and Sister Marie Eleanor are the teachers. At one time the enrollment which consisted of the elementary grades was approximately 265, but since the beginning of the industrial decline nearly one half the Catholic population of Brazil

⁴ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937), pp. 60-61.

has moved elsewhere.⁶ At present the parochial school enrollment is sixty-five.

Closely allied to the schools in the influence upon the intellectual life of the community is the library. It is said William Maclure, an immigrant to this country in 1796 and to Indiana in 1825, left at his death in 1840, a large estate, \$150,000 of which was by his will devoted to workingmen's libraries in a number of towns in Indiana, and in some other states. Indiana received \$70,000 of this sum and two towns in Clay County, Brazil and Knightsville, took advantage of this bequest.⁷

In 1879, the city library association was organized in the form of a joint stock company and for a time supplied the only library advantages available except to those who had private collections. The present public library in Brazil was made possible by the cooperation of the taxpayers and the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. A donation of \$25,000 was received from Mr. Carnegie in 1902 on condition that the city of Brazil should provide a suitable site and also raise annually sufficient money for the support of the library. Today, Brazil enjoys the advantages of a large, well-managed library.

It can be said the citizens of Brazil and the school officials have been liberal in providing the best educational

⁶ Personal interview by the writer with Father Wicke, parish priest, May 10, 1937.

⁷ Richard C. Boone, History of Education in Indiana. (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1892). p. 351.

opportunities for the children of their community. Nothing has been spared in supplying the requisites for a well rounded education so that the students when they reach maturity may live well in their environment and contribute to that environment.

As a result of building a new gymnasium recently, the school city of Brazil has an indebtedness of \$71,800.⁸ High school students of Dick Johnson, Jackson, and Cass Townships are transferred to Brazil high school and transported in motor buses. Center Point corporation also follows this practice.

CASS TOWNSHIP

Cass Township is next to the smallest township in the county, Brazil Township being the smallest. It contains an area of twelve square miles, and was organized in 1840. At this time Lewis Cass of Michigan was one of the great statesmen in Congress and the township was named in his honor. The earliest settlements were those made on the hills east of Eel River, near the present town of Poland. The wealth of Cass Township lies in its fertile agricultural lands.

Education received early attention in this township, and as soon as there were children enough in the community a school was established. The first sessions lasted from two to three months of the year, and were supported by subscription, the

⁸ Personal interview by the writer with Superintendent Kellar, May 19, 1937.

teacher frequently taking corn, deerskins, and other articles as a part of his pay. The first teacher was Harvey Pease who taught in a little cabin near Eel River in the Southern part of the township. Benjamin Payne was an early teacher and Jared Peyton taught an early school where the village of Poland now stands.⁹ Peyton was a man of culture and earned the reputation of being a fine teacher. Later he became Clay County's first representative in the General Assembly. For many years he was identified with the schools and did much for the cause of education. An early school was taught near Poland by a Mr. McGuire and in 1830 David Herald taught in the old Baptist Church. The first school house in Poland, the only village in the township and located on the northeast corner of the main intersection, was a log structure and was used until 1872 when a brick building was constructed. After being used many years, this building was condemned and replaced by a modern brick building in 1925.

During the school year of 1936-1937, forty-four pupils were enrolled in the only school of the township located in Poland.¹⁰ There were two teachers in charge. Those pupils in the township attending high school are transported to Brazil by bus. For this purpose, the township uses three buses. The school township has \$8,000 of indebtedness. To the credit of the citizens of Cass Township, it can be said they weathered

⁹ Charles Blanchard, op. cit., p. 312.

¹⁰ Indiana School Directory. (1936-1937). p. 61.

the economic depression of recent years in good condition. This probably was due to the fact that the people were nearly all farmers.

DICK JOHNSON TOWNSHIP

Dick Johnson Township is located in the northwest corner of Clay County and was organized in 1837. Much of the township is hilly and not suited for agriculture but there is a wealth of minerals in the form of coal and clay. The first settlers in Dick Johnson Township, were mainly squatters, who were lured to the region on account of the abundance of game. Since they were hunters rather than tillers of the soil, they made few improvements; generally they left the country upon the appearance of the permanent settlers. According to the records, Jesse Kisor made the first entry of land in the township in 1820, but he made his home in Vigo County. The first permanent settlers were Simeon and Patrick Archer, brothers who moved into the region from Ohio in 1823.

The writer was unable to find but few records giving information on the early schools of Dick Johnson Township. However, a personal interview with Mr. T. N. James proved of great value. The memory of Mr. James, a native of the township, takes one back before the Civil War. Two of the early teachers at the Bee Ridge School, according to Mr. James, were Frances B. Yocum and William Herron. Frances B. Yocum helped to draft the second constitution of Indiana. A James M. Townshend was a very capable teacher of this early period. One early school

in the southern part of the township, the Dunlavy School, was located where the Waterwork's road crosses Otter Creek. For many years this was the voting place of the entire township. An early school in the northwest part of the township was the Aker's School; later the Carter School was constructed on the Clay and Vigo county line and was attended by students from both counties. There is some evidence indicating that in the northern part of the township a term of school was taught as early as 1834 and attended by some children whose homes were in what later became Van Buren Township.

These schools were subscription schools and continued no longer than three months. The course of study included the three R's, reading, writing and arithmetic. Up to 1865 any one securing a license could teach, whether or not he had any formal education. The earliest schools were generally taught in vacant buildings and were attended by the children for many miles around. When buildings were constructed for school purposes, they were made of unhewed logs and covered with a clapboard roof. The dimensions usually were 12 feet by 14 feet.

The fireplace was large enough to place back logs that would keep the fire burning from dismissal in the evening to the opening of school the following morning.

At the present time Dick Johnson Township has three one-room schools, one two-teacher school and one three-teacher school. These are elementary schools and during the school year of 1936-1937, 199 students were enrolled with eight teachers

in charge.¹¹ The high school pupils are transported by bus to Brazil. Five buses are used in the township to transport the pupils to high school and to the local school districts. The indebtedness of the township for school purposes is \$8,000.

HARRISON TOWNSHIP

Harrison Township is the largest township in the county and one of the largest in the state. It is also one of the three original townships. The first land entries in this township were made in 1818, but it was 1823 before any permanent settlements were made. At this time James Downing and William Macwell constructed cabins near the present site of Middlebury. Harrison Township is rich agriculturally, especially is this true in the Eel River bottom lands. Even the more elevated portions of the township are fairly well suited for farming. A part of the township is underlaid with a fine grade of block coal which is produced by both shaft and strip-mining.

The first school in the township was taught in 1828 by Zachariah Denny in a little log cabin which stood a short distance south of Middlebury. The cabin was erected by the residents of the community, supported by subscription and attended by twenty-five or thirty pupils. The second school building, located southwest of Middlebury, was first used in 1832 and taught by Isaac Richart followed by William Ferguson.¹² This

¹¹ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). p. 61.

¹² Charles Blanchard, op. cit., p. 193.

building was burned and another was constructed. School buildings of this early type were constructed in other parts of the township and were used in most cases until approximately 1850, when they were replaced by better buildings. The pioneer teachers to whom much credit is due are William Brothers, David Alexander, A. J. Tipton, W. H. Long, and John Hanie.

Clay City, the largest town in Clay County, was established in 1873 and the first school was taught by Nellie Elkin in the years of 1874-1875. A business room was fitted temporarily for school purposes. In 1875 the first school house was built and the first term of school in this building was taught by W. O'Brien. As the school population increased, it was necessary to construct another building. Following this the present two-story brick school building was built in 1882.¹³ Clay City was incorporated in 1888 and still retains this status for civil purposes but it joins with the township in the support of the schools.

The Harrison Township consolidated school is located in Clay City and is organized on the 8-4 plan, that is eight elementary grades and four high school grades. During the school year of 1936-1937, the enrollment was 541 with a teaching staff of nineteen.¹⁴ Eleven of these were high school teachers and eight grade teachers. There were twenty-nine high school

¹³ William Travis, op. cit., p. 141.

¹⁴ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937), p. 61.

graduates in the class of 1937. Harrison Township uses ten motor buses to transport the pupils to and from school. There are also two two-teacher schools in the township with an enrollment of ninety-four. The school township has no indebtedness.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Jackson Township, named for President Andrew Jackson was organized in 1832. Its boundaries and area correspond to that of a congressional township. The township possesses a variety of soil, a surface for the most part fairly level and it is well adapted to agriculture and stock raising. Coal is found in most parts of the township. Today few deep mines are in operation and most of the coal is being removed by strip-mining.

It is believed the first actual settler in Jackson Township was James Green, who located in the southwest part in 1828. He was a hunter not only of bear and deer but also of bees. The sale of honey which he carried to Terre Haute provided his family with the necessities of life. Other early pioneers were John Sturdevant and Thomas Wheeler. By 1853, all the government land had been entered.

The pioneer citizens of Jackson Township believed their duty after providing homes for themselves was to establish schools for the education of their children. Frequently the one building was used for both the church and school.

The first school in the township was located in the Zenor settlement in the southwest part in 1832 and was taught by

Ezekiel Jenkins. William Slack, Alfred Bowling, and B. H. Witty afterward taught at the same school. The second school house was built a few years later, and was located in the eastern part of the township on Croy's Creek.¹⁵ Alfred Bowling was the first teacher. The Union School house was next constructed in the central part. Here Alfred Bowling and Elias Helton were early teachers.

In addition to studying the three R's, the more ambitious pupils would explore the mysteries of grammar and the wonders of geography. Geography, when it was taught, was learned to a great extent by the singing method. There were bright moments in the long tedious school hours when the pupils were allowed to sing the capitals and the boundaries of the states and the multiplication tables. The following is a part of the song of the capitals, the verses for the New England States.

State of Maine, Augusta,
On the Kennebec River.

State of Maine, Augusta,
On the Kennebec River.

Vermont, Montpelier,
On the Onion River.

Vermont, Montpelier,
On the Onion River.

New Hampshire, Concord,
On the Connecticut River.

¹⁵ Charles Blanchard, op. cit., p. 295.

New Hampshire, Concord,

On the Connecticut River.

Massachusetts, Boston,

On the Boston Harbor.

Massachusetts, Boston,

On the Boston Harbor.

Rhode Island has two capitals,

Providence and Newport.

Rhode Island has two capitals,

Providence and Newport.

In Jackson township there has been no consolidation of school districts. At one time there were eleven district schools. During the school year of 1936-1937 there were nine district schools, all of them one-teacher schools except the one in Hadleytown where there were two teachers. The total enrollment for all the schools was 266.¹⁶ Owing to the small enrollment in some districts, the trustee has seen fit to abandon such schools and transport the pupils to schools in neighboring districts. The township has three buses that transport the high school pupils to Brazil. A privately owned automobile is hired to transport some of the pupils within the township. A few of the high school pupils attend the Van Buren Township Consolidated School. The school township has no indebtedness.

Probably it would not be economical for Jackson Township to support a high school but to the writer it appears as if

¹⁶ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). pp. 61-62.

there is a splendid opportunity to have a consolidated grade school in the center of the township where greater educational advantages would be made possible.

Taxpayers in the past, sensitive about increased taxes which this step would bring, have opposed such suggestion. Most of the roads in the township are improved, which factor is an aid to consolidation.

LEWIS TOWNSHIP

Lewis Township, located on the southwestern part of the county, was originally a part of Harrison Township and was not made a separate organization until 1835. Peter Coopridger settled on the west bank of Eel River in 1821; later he was followed by William Shepherd. Neither of these men lived very long in the township. Numbered among the other early settlers were Noah Delay, John Mayfield, James Cross, James Briley, and Robert Baber.

The western and middle portions of the township are gently rolling while in the south and east the land is more level, consisting principally of bottom and prairie land. The wealth of Lewis Township is found in the rich farm land and that part that is underlaid with coal.

The law establishing free schools in Indiana went into effect in 1851. The people of Lewis Township, as elsewhere in the state, opposed this plan. There were schools, however, before the Free School Law went into effect. The first school house was built in 1838 and was known as the Neal School House,

located about two miles northeast of Coalmont. The first teacher was John Neal who taught a subscription school for a dollar and a half a pupil. The first school terms were short, usually about three months in length, taught after Christmas when the fall work was over. Some of the first teachers were Samuel Chambers, Edward Braden, Jefferson Buskirk, Amos Duncan, and Robert Logan. The first township institute was held in the fall of 1875.

The following report of A. J. Baber, trustee of Lewis Township for 1861, is interesting when considered in connection with the lengthy and detailed reports trustees are required to make at the present time.¹⁷

Number of square miles in township	40
Number of road districts	10
Number of school districts and houses	7
Number of male teachers	5
Number of female teachers	2
Average length school term in days	65
Number of pupils admitted	222
Number of pupils between 5 and 21	387
Number of families in township	178
Number of voters in township	186
Number of widows in township	18
Total number of inhabitants	723
Number of books in township library	285

¹⁷ William Travis, op. cit., pp. 565-566.

Common school fund received	\$568.00
Amount paid out to teachers	385.00
Amount yet on hand	183.00
Amount of road fund received	31.14
Special school fund received	29.35
Special school fund spent, repairs	29.35
Civil township fund received	113.53
Expended for township purposes	79.53
Balance of township fund on hand	34.00
Township tax levied on the \$10005
Special school tax on the \$10005
Amount of road tax on the \$10002
Average daily compensation for teachers . .	1.25
Trustees charges for the years services . .	30.00

Trustee Baber's charges of \$30.00 were for twenty-four days' services in the administration of the township's affairs. This pay per diem was the same as that of the teachers.

The consolidated school of Lewis Township is located at Coalmont, which is the largest town in the township. A new building is now being constructed to replace the old building which had been condemned. The new building will be completed in time for the opening of the 1937-1938 school year. The Coalmont school is organized on the 8-4 plan and had an enrollment for 1936-1937 of 173 in the elementary grades and 136 in the high school. There are five high school and six grade teachers. There were nineteen members in the graduating class of 1937. In addition to the Coalmont school, there are

seven district schools, two of which are two-teacher schools. The total enrollment of the district schools is 255.¹⁸ Seven motor buses are required to transport the pupils. Due to the construction of a new building the school township has an indebtedness of \$19,800.¹⁹ It seems rather strange in this day when much stress is being placed upon physical education and athletics, especially basketball, that this new building is being constructed without a gymnasium.

PERRY TOWNSHIP

Perry Township was one of the original townships of Clay County. The land is generally level and agriculture is the principal occupation of the people. The settlement of this township dates back to 1825 when William Christy, a native of Ohio, located his claim near the central part of the township. Among the early settlers were John Crossley, David Christy, George Dunham, Aaron Fagin, and David White.

The first school house was erected in 1845 a short distance south of Cory. It was a hewed log structure and was first used by Samuel Long. Milton Piercy and William Lewis taught at this school. Also, George and Enoch Rector deserve mention as pioneer teachers. Another early school was located three miles east of Cory and Jaames Riddle was the first

¹⁸ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). p. 62.

¹⁹ Personal interview by the writer with J. Riley McCullough, county superintendent, May 19, 1937.

teacher. As the population increased it became necessary to provide more schools, and in 1883 Perry Township had twelve frame school buildings.²⁰

Cory, founded in 1872 is the only town in Perry Township. It is said the town was named for Simeon Cory, a pioneer and popular hardware merchant of Terre Haute, who, in recognition of the honor, volunteered to put in a town pump and build a schoolhouse. The public well was dug and the pump put in, but the schoolhouse was not built for the reason that Mr. Cory died before that was done.

At the present there is just one district school in Perry Township. The other districts have been consolidated into a very fine school, known as the township school located at Cory. The 6-6 plan of organization is followed, that is the first six grades are classed as elementary and the upper six as high school. During the school year of 1936-1937 there were 234 pupils enrolled in the Cory school and sixteen in the district school, making a total of 250. During this same year the teaching staff consisted of six high school and five grade teachers.²¹ There were nineteen members in the graduating class. Perry Township requires the use of three motor buses and eight horse-drawn hacks to transport the pupils to the consolidated school. The horse-drawn hacks haul the children of families living on unimproved roads to the improved roads where they are transferred

²⁰ Charles Blanchard, op. cit., p. 278.

²¹ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). p. 62.

to the motor buses. Here in this township, in spite of many miles of unimproved roads, consolidation has been accomplished. Perry Township has no school indebtedness.

In these early schools it appears that there was greater respect shown the teachers by their students than today. Teachers usually visited each family having children in school once during the term. The visit was looked forward to by the family. It was a fine opportunity for the teacher to increase her popularity. For practically all infractions of rules, whipping was resorted to.

POSEY TOWNSHIP

Posey Township was organized in 1828 and agriculture and mining have been and are today the main sources of income. In 1823, the first settlements were made in the northern part of the township. Prominent among the early settlers were Thomas Moore, Artemas Gilbert, William Yocum, and Jacob Goodrich.

The writer has found in tracing the history of the schools that many of the interesting facts and incidents have been lost through the passage of time. The first school in the township was taught by Artemas Gilbert, near the village of Cloverland in the northern part of the township in 1834. A small cabin that had been occupied by a squatter was used, and the term lasted two months. An early teacher in the southern part of the township was C. B. Cole, who taught a term of school in 1836. A vacant cabin was provided with a few temporary benches and rough puncheon desks and used as the school house. The

first building erected for school purposes stood in the western part of the township; it was of the usual pioneer plan, with puncheon floor, stick chimney and a large fire place.

The following story is related and throws some light on teaching and early school conditions. In the summer of 1864 there came to Posey Township a young man to visit relatives. While here, he was prevailed upon to teach the district school and subsequently passed the examination, making very high grades. The school was organized and had been in session for several weeks when suddenly the young man made his exit by way of a window and disappeared into the woods. A few minutes later a stranger knocked at the door and asked for the teacher. It was learned from the stranger who was a detective, that the teacher was a draft evader from Pennsylvania. Once more he had escaped the law.

Staunton, founded in 1851 and incorporated in 1873, is the largest town in the township and is incorporated for civil purposes. The first school house was erected here in 1856. To Staunton goes the honor of having the first brick district school house in Clay County. This was completed in 1869.²²

Students of Posey Township today attend the consolidated school located at Staunton. The present building was constructed in 1915; and in 1936 an addition, containing a gymnasium, shop, and classrooms, was completed. This insures the township's having one of the finest school plants in the

²² William Travis, op. cit., p. 420.

county. During the school year of 1936-1937 there were 462 pupils enrolled and the 6-6 plan of organization was used. Twelve high school and six grade teachers compose the faculty. In addition there are two district schools in the township, each with two teachers and a total enrollment of 57.²³ The graduating class of 1937 was composed of 26 members. The township transports its pupils in six motor buses. As a result of the addition recently made to the old building, the school township had an indebtedness of \$25,000.

SUGAR RIDGE TOWNSHIP

The history of Sugar Ridge Township as a separate division of the county dates from 1854. The surface of the township varies from gently broken to rather hilly along the streams. Coal is found in many parts of the township and today the largest strip-mining operations in the county are underway here. Already hundreds of acres of what was once average farm land has been piled up in spoil banks. How are the citizens of Sugar Ridge Township going to support schools and other functions of government after the mineral wealth has been removed and much of the land has been taken from the tax duplicate?

The first settlers in the township were squatters. Among the first were Rev. Thomas Little, Thomas Risley, and James

²³ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). p. 62.

Walker. George Moss located permanently between Ashboro and Center Point in 1830. In the same year Christian Kintzley located in the northern part of the township.

The first school house erected in Sugar Ridge Township was located near the present site of Center Point and was first used by Manual Jenkins. Before this time settlers in the eastern part of the township sent their children to the schools of Washington Township while those in the northern part used the school in the Zenor settlement of Jackson Township. The second school house was built of round logs and stood a short distance from the village of Ashboro. The Steed school house in the southern part of the township was constructed in 1842.²⁴

Among the early teachers were James, Marshall, George O'Brien and a man by the name of Bailey.

The following story is typical of those individuals who opposed free schools principally because this would mean higher taxes. One of the enterprising citizens of the township when asked to support the movement for free schools made this reply. "Why, sir, I am an enemy to it. What good comes from schools, anyhow? Do they help us to make money? I kin raise as many and as fat hogs as any other man in the kentry, an' I ain't got no eddication at tall. They are only for the purpose of fetchin' up children to make 'em think they are better than their dadies and mamies."²⁵ It was the ignorance

²⁴ Charles Blanchard, op. cit., p. 263.

²⁵ Ibid., p. 263.

of the few and the indifference of many that held back the cause of public education.

At present Sugar Ridge Township has a consolidated high school located just east of the village of Ashboro. It is organized on the 8-4 plan, has an enrollment of 171 with a faculty of five in the high school and three in the grades for the school year of 1936-1937.²⁶ The 1937 graduating class was composed of twelve members. There is also a two-teacher school at Saline City with an enrollment of forty-four. Four motor buses are used to transport the pupils, and the school township has no indebtedness.

Center Point is the only incorporated town in Sugar Ridge Township. It was founded in 1856 and incorporated in 1869. The first school house in the town was constructed in 1866 and was used until it was replaced in 1895 by the building now in use. A school board of three members has charge of the town school. The enrollment is fifty-seven and there are two teachers. The corporation has one bus that hauls the high school students to Brazil. Center Point corporation has no indebtedness. The writer questions the justification of small corporations like Center Point maintaining their own school. Certainly the town could be joined with the township, educational opportunities increased, and the cost lowered.

It was in Center Point that the original graded school in Clay County was taught. This was in 1867 and the

²⁶ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). pp. 62-63.

instruction given would correspond to that of the ninth year today.²⁷ Some people spoke of it as a high school in the sense that it was on the second floor, and above the district school. In Center Point, as well as Clay City and Brazil "normals" were held of from five to ten weeks in length. These "normals" provided teachers an opportunity for review and instruction in the philosophy and methods of teaching. The "normals" served their purpose but today teachers' colleges and universities have taken their place.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

Van Buren Township was organized in 1937 and was named in honor of President Martin Van Buren by one of his ardent admirers. The soil is fairly well suited to agricultural purposes, and coal underlies the greater part of the township. Both shaft and strip-mining are carried on. Originally the region was heavily timbered.

The first permanent settlers in Van Buren Township were Matthew Cox and James Roberts. Their claims date back to 1825 but Cox did not bring his family from Kentucky until the fall of 1826 and Roberts moved on his claim where Knightsville now stands in 1831. Other early settlers were Green McKinley, John Darting, and Moses Parr.

Schools were established at an early date; the first sessions, however, were held in private dwellings. The first

²⁷

William Travis, op. cit., p. 86.

term was taught by Isam Steed, in a small vacated cabin which stood a few miles north of Harmony. Some ten or twelve pupils were enrolled. It was supported by subscription and lasted two and a half months. As has been already noted, children in the northern part of the township attended school in Dick Johnson Township. It was nothing unusual for pupils to walk a distance of five and six miles to school. The first school building constructed was a small log structure, built by the neighbors on the farm of Green McKinley.

Benjamin Carman first taught here and for several successive terms. An early schoolhouse was built in 1845 in the northwest part of the township, on John Pell's farm. It was first used by Isam Steed. The first frame school house was erected by Green McKinley on his farm in 1862.²⁸

Harmony, the only unincorporated town in the township, was laid out by John Graves in 1839. The first school house in Harmony was constructed in the southern part of the village, south of what is now the Pennsylvania Railroad and was used until 1869, when it was replaced by a new one. This was designated as the "red school" and was attended by pupils living south of the railroad. At this time there was also the "white school", located on what is now the site of the United Brethern Church and was attended by those living north of the railroad.²⁹ Later in 1873 a four-room building was built just

²⁸ Charles Blanchard, op. cit., pp. 235-236.

²⁹ Personal interview by the writer with Sally Prather, early teacher, July 31, 1936.

east of the present Methodist Church and this was replaced by the present brick building in 1904. Only the first four grades are now accommodated in this building. Pupils in the other grades are transported to the consolidated school two miles north of Harmony.

Knightsville was laid out in 1867 and incorporated in 1872. Its growth and prosperity was due to the coal and iron interests. The first school house was constructed by the Western Iron and Coal Company. The first teacher was a Mr. Mack and the company deducted one dollar per month from the wages of each employee for the support of the schools. The building served the purpose of a school, church, and dance hall. Later a four-room frame building was constructed in the southwestern part of the town and now this building has been replaced by a modern four-room brick structure. Many of the residents of Knightsville were miners and in recent years have moved to newer coal fields. Those remaining find taxes are high. The school corporation has an indebtedness of \$6,000. The enrollment in 1936-1937 was 136 with a faculty of four in charge.³⁰ Children from the Clay County Orphan's Home attend the Knightsville school. A larger number of high school students are transferred to the Van Buren Consolidated School than are to Brazil. One of the principal reasons for this is that the township furnishes transportation to Van Buren but those attending Brazil High School must furnish their own transportation.

³⁰ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). p. 63.

The other incorporated town in Van Buren Township is Carbon, founded in 1870 and incorporated in 1875. It maintains a grade school and in 1936-1937 the enrollment was ninety-four, with three teachers in charge.³¹ The corporation transfers the high school pupils to either the Van Buren or Brazil High School. Most of them choose the township high school because transportation is furnished.

There are also in Van Buren Township examples of what were once thriving and prosperous villages boasting of good schools; but now these are practically deserted. Cardonia and Benwood were both mining towns, but when the mines were exhausted the population moved elsewhere.

As the population of the township increased, school buildings were constructed for each district, composed usually of four square miles. To accommodate those that desired a higher education than the graded school could offer, high school classes were organized and conducted for a time in what is now the Red Men's Hall in Harmony.

Before the consolidating of the schools of the township in 1922 those pupils desiring a high school education attended the Brazil High School. In 1922 there was constructed in the center of the township a fine school building to accommodate the grades and high school. This school building with its beautiful rural setting on a ten-acre tract of land is one of the finest of its kind in the state. The advantages of

³¹ Indiana School Directory. (1936-1937). p. 63.

this school have attracted many pupils and it has been crowded since the opening date.

In the school year of 1936-1937 the faculty consisted of eighteen members and there were 428 pupils enrolled. The 6-6 plan of organization is used. The first four grades at the Harmony school had fifty enrolled and two teachers in charge. In the 1937 graduating class there were thirty-two members. Seven large motor buses are needed to transport the pupils and each makes two trips morning and evening. The indebtedness of the school township is \$20,000. Van Buren is the only township school in the county that offers vocational agriculture and home economics.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Washington Township is rich in history for it was here that the first settlement in the county was made and the location of the first county seat. The township was one of the three original townships formed when the county was organized in 1825. The bottom land along the Eel River is very fertile but that back from the river is hilly and not well suited for agriculture.

David Thomas and Samuel Risley were the first settlers. Samuel Risley taught the first school in the county during 1820 in one room of the cabin of David Thomas. This cabin was the nearest to the center of the settlement. There is no record of Mr. Risley receiving any compensation for his teaching. In the following year 1821 the first school house in the county

was built in the northwestern part of the township. It was 16 feet by 18 feet and to Mr. Risley again goes the honor of teaching the first school in a building constructed for that purpose.³² Later in life Mr. Risley contracted pneumonia while helping to construct a school building and died. What a sacrifice this one man made for the cause of early education in Clay County! Harvey Pease was another of the early teachers. The log school house in Bowling Green was replaced by a frame building in 1842. This was used until 1875 when the town erected a two-story brick school house on the south side of the town and it is still in use. The bonds issued for the construction of this building have never been paid. The reason for this is that on the removal of the county seat to Brazil in 1887 the town corporation which had been formed in 1871 took over the former county buildings. The courthouse was used as a public hall. This indebtedness was too great for the little town after many of the enterprising citizens had moved away, so the town corporation was dissolved. The bondholders were the losers. The old courthouse stood until 1910 when it was struck by lightning and destroyed.

A county seminary was established in Bowling Green in 1839 and was in use until 1859. Among the teachers at this seminary were John Williams, Hiram Wyatt, Nancy E. Waugh, Lizzie Waterhouse, William K. Houston, James M. Olicer, Josiah Hambleton, A. H. Baker, James M. Townshend, Dr. Dodge, George

³² Personal interview by the writer with Harry Elkin, township historian, May 20, 1937.

N. Beamer, James G. Miles, Professor Summers, Miss Frankie Hall, and Fred Hall. The instruction given in these early seminaries corresponded to that of the high school today and prepared the boys for college.³³

In 1876 a library was established in Bowling Green. A company was organized with Nathan Thomas, Paul G. Geiger, Clinton Thompson, Jefferson McAnelly, W. W. Carter, and Hiram Teeters as stockholders. After a time the plan was abandoned and the three hundred books divided among the organizers. Before the removal of the county seat to Brazil, Bowling Green was the commercial and social center of the county.³⁴

Washington Township's consolidated school is located at Bowling Green and is organized on the 8-4 plan. During the school year of 1936-1937 the enrollment was 181 with a faculty of four in the high school and four in the grades. There is one district school in the township having twenty-three pupils enrolled.³⁵ The 1937 graduating class had ten members. Five motor buses and nine private automobiles and horse drawn hacks are used to transport the students. The bonded indebtedness of the school township is \$8,000.

³³ Logan Esarey, History of Indiana, (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1921). p. 108.

³⁴ William Travis, op. cit., p. 147.

³⁵ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). p. 63.

CHAPTER IV

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The topography of Clay County is that of a plain, in parts smooth and in others moderately rolling to hilly. There is found in the county a variety of soils ranging from the deep black muck of the sloughs and marshes to the thin, gray, yellow clays of the upland. In a soil survey made in 1927, eighteen types of soil in addition to mine dumps were identified in Clay County.¹ Originally, most of the county was heavily timbered with the exception of a few small openings called prairies.

Clay County is noted for the production of high grade block coal and also very fine clays. Mining, manufacture of clay products and farming has been the most important industries carried on by the citizens of Clay County. Years ago the coal bearing strata was penetrated by deep mines or shafts and the coal extracted. Today hundreds of acres of land, much of it suited for agricultural purposes are being permanently ruined for farming by strip-mining. Attractive royalties paid by mining companies, coupled with the low prices of farm products induced many land owners to be willing to see their fertile acres transformed into spoil banks. Much wealth has been removed from the soil in the form of coal, clay, and gravel. This

¹ G. B. Jones, C. B. Manifold, T. M. Bushnell and R. P. Oyler, Soil Survey of Clay County, Indiana. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1927). p. 1393.

exploitation of the natural resources of the county has its bearing upon education. In deep mining hundreds of miners were employed but as this type of mining gave way to strip-mining, which requires only a few to carry on the operations, many miners with their families moved to other localities. Those who remained found it more difficult to support education and the other functions of government. After the coal and clay are removed, the land being practically useless, taxes go unpaid and eventually this land reverts to the state. It may be said, however, that an effort has been made at forestation of the spoil banks but not with any great degree of success. Attempts have been made to secure legislation requiring the strip-mining companies to level the spoil banks at the time the coal and clay are being removed. Strong lobbies in the past have been able to defeat such moves.

In 1917 Clay County took advantage of the Smith-Lever Act passed by the Federal government and secured the services of a county agricultural agent. This act also provided financial assistance for the carrying on of work in home economics. From the time of the first appointment of a county agent in 1917, the county has not been without the services of this official except for a brief period following the World War. The following men have served as county agents: Herbert W. Crowe, Horace Abbott, H. L. Royce, and the present incumbent, R. D. McHargue, who was appointed June 17, 1936.² Before May 1, 1929, the county agent had no assistance. From that date to July 1, 1936, the county

² Minutes of the County Board of Education. June, 1936.

had the services of a 4-H club director. Since there was a discontinuance of the 4-H club director, the county has secured the services of a home demonstration agent. Miss Lucille McLain now fills the position. In the past the county agent has been appointed by the county board of education. Under the present law the appointment is in the hands of the state superintendent of public instruction, the state commissioner of agriculture, and the director of agricultural extension in Indiana. Beginning county agents are usually appointed for one year, but those with experience are appointed for at least two years.

In 1927 4-H clubs were first organized in Clay County and since that time their growth has increased each year. In the year ending November 30, 1936, a total of 223 boys and 336 girls were enrolled in the projects offered. Of this number 201 boys and 303 girls completed the projects in which they had enrolled.³ The following are some of the projects carried on: Corn, alfalfa, soybeans, potatoes, garden, orchard, tomatoes, poultry, dairy, beef, sheep, swine, colt, leadership, food preparation, baking, food preservation, clothing, and room improvement.⁴ There were thirty-five leaders and assistants in charge of this work.

There is held each year a 4-H club show in Brazil where is displayed the work accomplished by the members enrolled in the different projects. Also each year Clay County joins with the neighboring counties and provides a 4-H club camp, where instruction, entertainment, and recreation are provided. Each year

³ R. D. McHargue, Annual Report of the County Agricultural Agent. 1936. p. 1.

⁴ Ibid., p. 2.

outstanding 4-H club members attend the Annual Round Up held at Purdue University.

A number of the Clay County boys and girls have won distinction in their club work. Seven boys and one girl, in the past have won trips to the International Live Stock Show at Chicago. During the past nine years, nine persons have been awarded scholarships to Purdue University; these ranging in value from \$270 to \$370. In 1934, \$1100 in premiums and scholarships were awarded to Clay County boys and girls at the Indiana State Fair. Especially, has the work of the lamb club been outstanding. During the past four years during the annual lamb show held at Indianapolis, Clay County has won fifteen out of eighteen first prizes.

In the past the Chamber of Commerce of Brazil has sponsored pig and lamb clubs. The plan has been for a member of the Chamber of Commerce to become the co-signer of a note with some boy or girl for the purchase of a pig or lamb. The Farm Bureau Cooperative Association this year is sponsoring a corn club. This includes the purchase of seed, premium money, and a 4-H club banquet for those who complete the project.

The Farm Bureau has a social and educational department and only recently there has been purchased a sound moving picture machine to be used for instruction and entertainment. In five townships of the county there is held annually a Farmer's Institute. A Harvest Home Sunday is also sponsored by the Farm Bureau.

At present only two schools in the county are taking advantage of the Smith-Hughes Act passed in 1917, which provided for vocational education. These two schools are Brazil city and Van Buren Township. Van Buren Township also has vocational home economics on an eight months basis. This form of instruction has been discontinued in the Clay City and Cory schools.

The people of Clay County need not fear for the future of agriculture as long as the interest of the boys and girls continue and they have the guidance of a competent county agent and volunteer workers. The county agent has been able to extend the services of his office through an active farmers' organization and much credit is due the Clay County Farm Bureau. Today more people are making use of the county agent's office than ever before. This is no doubt in part due to the Federal government's activity in behalf of the farmer, bringing many people in contact with the office. The outlook for the future is very good and it is hoped that the good work thus started will continue. Especially should the character and health building features of 4-H club work be continued along with the imparting of knowledge and the development of manual skill. All these have been woven together in such a way as to constitute an educational process.⁵

⁵ The Indianapolis News. (May 7, 1937).

CHAPTER V

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

In order to understand the administration, supervision and support of the schools of Clay County it will be necessary to give a summary of the most important state legislation bearing on these subjects. Indiana was late in making constitutional provision for the guidance and supervision of its public school system. However the general assembly of 1818 passed a seminary law, empowering the governor to appoint a seminary trustee in each county. The most important duty of this officer was that of dealing with financial problems. In 1824, a law was passed providing for the election of three trustees in each township for one year. These trustees had charge of school lands and funds and the important duty of examining of teachers and granting of licenses.¹ In order to secure a license to teach the applicant had to be able to write a readable hand, "cipher" as far as the "single rule of three," and "mind his stops" in reading.²

The need for county supervision of the schools was provided for in a law passed in 1831. This law provided for the

¹ Fassett A. Cotton, Education in Indiana. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904). p. 50.

² William Travis, A History of Clay County, Indiana. (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1909). p. 82.

election of a school commissioner for each county for a term of three years, whose duty was primarily to look after the school funds. The following commissioners served Clay County under this law: Thomas Harvey, Eli Anderson, T. West, and Hale C. Conoway.³

In 1833 three sub-trustees in each district were appointed for a term of one year. Their duties included the examining and employing of teachers. By a law passed in 1836 it became legal for any householder to employ a teacher, if the trustees failed to do so. In 1837, the circuit court was empowered to appoint three examiners for a term of one year, whose duty was to certify the subjects each applicant was qualified to teach. No change was made in the county system until 1849 when a law was passed abolishing the office of county school commissioner, retaining the three school examiners of the county and the three township trustees, and substituting one trustee for the three district trustees.⁴

When the new state constitution was adopted in 1851, school legislation remained as it was in 1849. A law passed in 1852 provided for a state superintendent of public instruction and a state board of education. Under this law the licensing of teachers was in the hands of the state superintendent or deputies whom he was authorized to appoint, one to a county. This law did not prove satisfactory and in 1861 a law was passed substituting one examiner for the three, the one to be appointed by

³ Ibid., p. 77.

⁴ Fassett A. Cotton, op. cit., p. 53.

the board of county commissioners for a term of three years. Great progress was made under this law and it was followed by a law passed in 1873, which created the office of county superintendent. This act did not create a new office but merely changed the name and enlarged the powers of the old office. According to this law the township trustees were to elect bi-annually, beginning with the first Monday in June 1873, a county superintendent. No educational or professional requirements were demanded. In 1899 the term of office was changed to four years and no person was eligible to this office unless he held a thirty-six months license or a life or professional license.⁵

The most important educational office for the county is that of county superintendent of schools. The duties of this office may be said to be of a business nature, clerical, and professional. For many years teachers were required to pass a written examination in order to secure a license to teach. All papers not sent to the state superintendent for grading were graded by the county superintendent. As a result of the law of 1873, the rural schools received more supervision and their efficiency increased.

At present the term of the county superintendent is four years and he is eligible for re-election during good behavior. The law of 1935 contains the following regarding the qualifications of the county superintendent of schools. "That no person shall be eligible to or shall hold the office of county

⁵ Fassett A. Cotton, op. cit., p. 54.

superintendent of schools who has not had five years successful experience as a teacher in the public schools, and who does not hold, at the time of his election, a first or second grade superintendent's license.*⁶

The county superintendent's duties are quite numerous. He shall have the general superintendence of the schools of his county; he shall visit schools while they are in session for the purpose of increasing their usefulness and elevating, as far as practicable the poorer schools to the standard of the best. He shall labor, in every practicable way, to elevate the standard of teaching and to improve the condition of the schools of his county. In all controversies of a general nature arising under the school law, the decision of the county superintendent shall first be obtained; and then an appeal, except on local questions relating to the legality of school meetings, establishment of schools, and the location, building, repair or removal of school houses, or transfer of persons for school purposes and resignation and dismissal of teachers, may be taken from his decision to the state superintendent of public instruction on a written statement of facts, certified by such county superintendent. He shall at all times carry out the orders and instructions of the state superintendent of public instruction, and shall constitute a medium between such state superintendent and subordinate school officers and schools. Further the county superintendent must cooperate with the state inspector in the inspection of both elementary and high schools. He shall provide

⁶ Laws of the State of Indiana. (1935). p. 1286.

for the examination of all applicants for graduation in the common branches and shall determine the grade or success of teachers employed in the township schools. He shall keep a record of minutes of his proceedings. He shall on or before the fifteenth day of May, annually, make out and forward to the state superintendent the enumeration of his county. He shall make out from the lists of enumeration and the report of transfers, the basis of apportionment of school revenue to the several townships, towns, and cities of his respective county and report the same to the proper county auditor by the first day of June, annually, so as to enable the county auditor to accurately apportion the school revenue for tuition. He shall see that the full amount of interest on the school funds is paid and apportioned and approved all teachers for high schools and for the elementary grades in conjunction with the high school before they are employed by the township trustee, according to the requirements of the state board of education.⁷

At one time the county superintendent was charged with the duty of attending each township institute at least once each school year. The writer has been told by the older teachers of the county of the profound discussions that took place in these township institutes, but a short time before their abolishment they became nothing more than an uninteresting discussion of an outline prepared by the state. Teachers attended mainly because they were allowed one day's pay for institute; and also failure to attend might cause their success grade to be lowered.

⁷ School Laws of Indiana. (1935). pp. 31-37.

All this no doubt helped to bring about a repeal of the township institute law in 1927. The Clay County teachers meet in county institute for not less than one nor more than three days preceding the opening of school. This meeting is held in Brazil and the county commissioners appropriate twenty-five dollars per day to defray the expenses. The county superintendent may call meetings once each month of the school year for which the teachers are allowed five dollars per day for the days they attend. During the past ten years these monthly meetings have been very valuable. A small assessment upon each teacher raises a fund which is used to procure the best lecturers and entertainers. Various high and grade schools throughout the county have charge of the opening exercises of these monthly institutes.

The law of 1853, under the new constitution, provided for the appointment of three school examiners, who held their office for three years; these were chosen, usually, from the three commissioner districts. As has already been stated in 1861 the number of examiners was reduced to one and in 1873 the office of county superintendent was created. The following examiners and county superintendents have served Clay County since 1853. Serving as examiners from 1853 until the law of 1861 was passed were James M. Lucas, Enos Miles, Ebenezer Smith, James G. Miles, Mrs. Carrie P. Doyle, O. P. Ash, Aaron S. Simonson, and Jesse Purcell. The last three named were legislated out of office by the law of 1861. Table III contains the names of those who have served as county superintendents, the date of appointment, and years of service.

TABLE III
NAMES, DATE OF APPOINTMENT, AND YEARS
OF SERVICE OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF
CLAY COUNTY, INDIANA⁸

Name	Date of appointment	Years of service
Samuel Loveless*	1861	3
William Travis*	1864 and 1865	4
William H. Atkins*	1868	3
William Travis*	1871	3
William H. Atkins**	1873	2
Allen R. Julian	1875	2
Preston P. Triplett	1877	4
John W. Stewart	1881	4
Maston S. Wilkinson	1885	2
William H. Chillson	1887	12
James M. Tilley***	1899	4
Willis Akre	1903	18
J. Riley McCullough	1921	Present superintendent

* County school examiners.

** First county superintendent under the law of 1873.

*** Term extended to four years.

⁸ William Travis, op. cit., pp. 84-85.

It could be said that distinguished service was rendered by all those who served as examiners and superintendents. The writer would like to note especially some three or four. First Ebenezer C. Smith an examiner in 1853. He was a scholar and graduate of one of the leading New England colleges. In his report to the State Department in 1853 it is found that there were twenty-five licensed teachers in the county and he had this to say about education generally.

The county in which I reside has often been complimented with being one of the darkest corners of the State. If this is true, a few remarks from one living, as I do, in a retired part of this county may be of some value as affording a better view of the 'shady side' than you would obtain from some other sources. In acting in the double capacity of Examiner and Township Trustee, I have found myself obliged to use, to its fullest extent, the liberal construction you gave to Section 9 of the school laws, in your instructions on page 58; and even then, it has been with some difficulty and considerable delay that our township has been supplied with teachers. The law, however, on this point, in my opinion, is about right. The standard of popular education in our country is everywhere rising, and something should be done to elevate it in our State. And I do not see how this can be done without bringing up the standard of qualifications in teachers to the proper point. In endeavoring to make the law do its best, instead of refusing to license those whose qualifications were not such as were desirable, I have granted them in all cases seemingly admissible. But, at the same time, it has been my aim to be so thorough in all my examination as to show the candidate wherein he was deficient, and give those who were rusty a pretty fair hint to brighten up, and I have had the satisfaction of knowing that in some cases this course has had the desired effect. Tedious examinations have been much complained of, and the fear of such may have been one reason why I have had so few applicants. No license has been granted to any one who had not some knowledge of English grammar. There is great want of system in the mode of giving instruction in our schools in this part

of the country. This should be attributed to the wretched condition of our houses and want of uniformity in books, rather than to want of capacity in teachers.⁹

William Travis is regarded by some as "The Father of the Common School System of Clay County." He was appointed an examiner in 1864 and did much in raising the schools to a higher plane of efficiency and usefulness. He was instrumental along with three other teachers in holding the first teachers' meeting in the county, January 31, 1863. At this meeting there was planned the first county institute for the week of July 20th, 1863.

James M. Tilley after serving as county superintendent for four years became superintendent of the city schools of Terre Haute, Indiana, and served many years in that capacity. He is the only former county superintendent now living.

J. Riley McCullough, the present county superintendent was appointed in 1921. He has had some forty years of experience in educational work. Under his supervision the standards of the schools have been raised. Monthly bulletins issued by the county superintendent keep the teachers informed. Superintendent McCullough is also an authority on Indiana School Law.

The township had been made the unit of land measurement by congressional action, and the natural normal thing was to follow that procedure in the development of school organization.¹⁰ A

⁹ Charles Blanchard, Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana. (Chicago: F. A. Battey and Company, 1884). pp. 77-78.

¹⁰ Clement T. Malan, Indiana School Law and Supreme Court Decisions. (Terre Haute: Teachers College Press, 1931). p. 8.

congressional township contains an area of thirty-six square miles and it was by this means that the location of land was determined. A civil township is an area varying in extent and its boundaries are determined by the local authorities or the people, for convenience of administration in civil affairs. In area and outline the congressional and civil townships may be the same or the civil township may be more or less than the congressional township. Clay County is equal in area to ten congressional townships comprising today eleven civil townships. Of the eleven townships in the county, Jackson, Posey, and Washington Townships are congressional; Harrison and Perry are larger than a congressional township; Cass, Brazil, Dick Johnson, Sugar Ridge, and Van Buren are smaller in area than a congressional township. Harrison Township is one of the largest townships in the state but Brazil and Cass Townships are among the smallest. There was organized shortly after the Mexican War a Carrithers township named for Alexander Carrithers, a young soldier who lost his life in the battle of Buena Vista. This township existed for five or six years and then its territory was absorbed by adjoining townships in 1853.

In 1852 under the new state constitution the civil township became the unit for school administration. Again in 1859 when the number of township trustees were reduced from three to one, the school machinery was further simplified.¹¹

The township trustee is the most important township official. He is elected by the people for a term of four years.

¹¹ Fassett A. Cotton, op. cit., p. 74.

Formerly he could not succeed himself. At the present time no person shall be eligible to the office of township trustee for more than eight years in any period of twelve years.¹² He must be a resident and a qualified voter of the township.

The duties of the township trustee are dual in nature and his powers are practically absolute. As civil trustee he has duties entirely distinct from those connected with educational matters. However, in recent years there has been a shifting of the powers and duties of some of the township officials. In townships having a population of less than 5,000, the office of assessor has been discontinued and his duties have been assumed by the trustee. Brazil Township is the only township in the county having an assessor. On the other hand the trustee has been relieved of the duty of looking after the unimproved roads. This is now in the hands of the county. The administration of relief now takes a great deal of the trustee's time.

The educational affairs of the township are under the control of the trustee, and therein lie his most important duties. He shall establish and locate conveniently a sufficient number of schools for the education of the child in the township, and build or provide suitable houses, furniture, and educational appliances for the efficient management of said schools. Annually on the first Monday of August the trustee is required to make a statistical report to the county superintendent containing the following items: the number of districts, schools taught, and their grades; teachers, males and females; average compensation

¹² School Laws of Indiana. (1935). p. 42.

for each grade; and a detailed statement of the township's financial statement to the advisory board of the township on the first Tuesday of September. He must provide books for the less fortunate children of the township and is empowered to transfer pupils of his township to another school corporation.¹³

One of the most important duties of the township trustee is the employing of teachers. In some townships party politics plays an important part in the selecting of teachers. The mistakes that trustees make are often magnified but as a group they are no better or worse than any other class in society. For many years the trustees have had a strong organization and have been able to overcome efforts to abolish their office. Townships are classified according to population and the trustees' salaries are determined by this classification. The salaries are low and this no doubt keeps many capable men from aspiring to the office. Table IV shows the cost of the trustee's office in each township in the county.

In each township there is an advisory board of three resident freeholders and qualified voters who are elected for four years. This board was created for the purpose of checking upon township expenditures. In many instances they have had but little influence upon the trustees.

There is in the county, a county board of education, composed of the county superintendent, the trustees of the townships, and the chairmen of the school trustees of each town and city of the county. This board meets semi-annually at the office

¹³ School Laws of Indiana. (1935). pp. 47-51.

TABLE IV
SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF THE TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEES OF CLAY COUNTY FOR 1937¹⁴

Township	Salary	Office rent	Traveling expense
Brazil	\$1,000	\$300	\$200
Cass	450	40	60
Dick Johnson	720	60	175
Harrison	1,000	125	200
Jackson	720	60	150
Lewis	900	60	150
Posey	1,000	60	200
Perry	720	60	150
Sugar Ridge	600	60	125
Van Buren	900	60	150
Washington	600	--	125

¹⁴ The Brazil Daily Times, (August, 1936).

of the county superintendent on the first days of May and September, (unless these days are on Sunday, and if so, on the day following). Among the duties of the county board of education are the looking after the general wants and needs of the schools and the school property, and all matters relating to the purchase of supplies. Also an important duty is in the selection of the first Monday in May of each year, a truant or attendance officers. The duty of this officer is to look after truancy in the county. The following persons have served Clay County as attendance officers: Absalom Wheeler, W. T. Modesitt, A. M. Storm, William C. Gantz, Edward Schultz, Nicholas White, William Moore, E. G. Bush, Carl Baumunk, George K. Dickson, and Mrs. Jessie Moore.¹⁵ Mrs. Jessie Moore was recently re-elected by the county board of education.

In Clay County three town corporations maintain their own schools. These are Carbon and Knightsville in Van Buren Township and Center Point in Sugar Ridge Township. The schools of these corporations are under the supervision of the county superintendent.

Brazil is the only city or town in Clay County having a superintendent of schools. The office of city superintendent has come to be an important one. The superintendent serves at the pleasure of the school board but is usually elected annually and holds his position during good behavior. In Brazil the school board is appointed by the city council and the members

¹⁵ William Travis, op. cit., p. 85.

serve for three years, one new member being appointed each year. The superintendent has these duties to perform: choosing, assignments and supervision of the teachers; preparing the budget annually for all expenditures and revenues; looking after the equipment and seeing that the school property is repaired and improved.

Under Superintendent Kellar, the city of Brazil has one of the best school systems, for its size of any city in the state. An excellent system of elementary schools and a junior and senior high school has been established. A board curriculum is offered the pupils and at the same time the per pupil cost has been kept low.

CHAPTER VI

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support of the public schools comes from three sources. Of these three the state and local governments contribute the most while a smaller sum is provided by the federal government for the encouragement of vocational education.

In 1785 or two years before the adoption of the Ordinance of 1787, Congress made provision for the establishment and maintenance of schools in the Northwest Territory by setting aside for that purpose one square mile, or section sixteen, in each congressional township. This grant was confirmed to Indiana in the Enabling Act of 1816. There were within the boundaries of Clay County eleven such sections, all of which have been sold. The amount received from the sale of these lands composes the congressional township school fund. Table V gives the amount of this fund allotted to the various townships and corporations of the county on the basis of the 1932 school enumeration law. This law provides that five per cent of the fund of each township and corporation be allotted each year. One half of this amount is distributed in January and the other half in July. The total amount of this fund for 1932 was \$10,704.75 and \$267.62 is distributed twice each year.

Another fund supporting education is the one known as the Common School Fund which is provided for in Article VIII of

TABLE V

READJUSTED CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
FUND ON THE BASIS OF THE 1932
SCHOOL ENUMERATION LAW¹

Township or corporation	Amount of fund	Amount allotted twice each year
Brazil Township	\$ 153.57	\$ 3.89
Cass	617.89	15.44
Dick Johnson	166.15	4.15
Harrison	1913.19	47.83
Jackson	893.86	22.34
Lewis	1042.69	26.06
Perry	1133.21	28.33
Posey	965.60	24.12
Sugar Ridge	634.32	15.86
Van Buren	380.33	9.51
Washington	672.90	16.82
Carbon (town)	82.80	2.07
Center Point (town)	216.81	5.42
Knightsville (town)	150.17	3.75
Brazil (city)	1681.26	42.03
Total	\$10,704.75	\$267.62

¹ Auditor's Annual Report of Clay County. (1933).

the State Constitution. This fund is composed of: (1) The Congressional Township fund and the lands belonging thereto, (2) The Saline Fund the lands thereto, (3) The Surplus Revenue Fund, (4) The Bank Tax Fund, and the funds arising from the one hundred and fourteenth section of the charter of the State Bank of Indiana, (5) The funds derived from the sale of county seminaries, (6) The fines assessed for breaches of the penal laws of the state, and from all forfeitures which may accrue, (7) All lands and other estate which shall escheat to the state, for want of heirs or kindred entitled to the inheritance, (8) All lands that have been or may hereafter be, granted to the state, where no special purpose is expressed in the grant, and the proceeds of the sales thereof and the proceeds of the sales of the swamp lands, granted to the state of Indiana by an act of Congress, (9) Taxes on the property of corporations that may be assessed by the General Assembly for common school purposes.² The total amount of the Common School Fund apportioned to Clay County in 1936 was \$163,330.68. The condition of both the congressional township and common school funds for Clay County from 1860 to 1936 are found in Table VI.

The Congressional Township and the Common School fund make up what is known as the Permanent School Fund. The total amount of this fund for Clay County in 1936 was \$173,956.75.³

² Indiana State Constitution. (1851). Article VIII, Section 2.

³ Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. (1936). p. 28.

TABLE VI

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND THE AMOUNT OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND COMMON SCHOOL FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
TO CLAY COUNTY FOR 1860,
1880, 1900, 1915, 1936

Date	Enrollment	Congressional township fund	Common school fund
1860	2,131	\$13,561.00	\$ 11,363.29 ⁴
1880	7,417	10,375.19	28,032.84 ⁵
1900	8,609	10,864.72	94,759.39 ⁶
1915	6,972	10,538.27	110,261.63 ⁷
1936	5,796	10,626.07	163,330.68 ⁸

⁴ Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. (1860). pp. 100-106.

⁵ Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. (1880). pp. 226-228.

⁶ Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. (1900). pp. 301-306.

⁷ Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. (1915). pp. 776-791.

⁸ Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Reprinted from the 1936 Yearbook. p. 28.

Each county holds in trust all the Congressional Township fund belonging to the respective townships of the county, and so much of the Common School funds as has been distributed to it on the basis of the school enumeration. These funds are loaned, preferable to private persons within the county, on real estate mortgages at six per cent interest, and the counties are held responsible for both the principal and the annual income.⁹ This fund may be increased but not decreased. The distribution of the congressional fund is based upon enumeration. This was in conformance with the original grant of school lands by the Federal government. Not taking this into consideration the Gneral Assembly enacted legislation providing for the distribution of the Congressional Township Fund on the basis of average daily attendance. This has not been done because it is contrary to law and the recent distributions have been made according to the 1932 enumeration. This is a good example of what occurs when legislators, sometimes hastily enact legislation without carefully considering past legislation in the same field.

The first schools of Clay County were supported by subscription. Teachers were paid for their services in such commodities as they would consent to receive in addition to a small sum of money. The next step in school support was the paying of school taxes only to those who had children attending school. By 1848 the movement for free schools was underway

⁹ Public Education in Indiana, Report of the Indiana Education Survey Commission, (1923). p. 177.

and since that time the public schools have been partially financed from state school revenue derived from a state tax levy. The state does not apend any of this fund but merely acts as a collection and distribution agency. In August, 1848, 1,150 people of Clay County voted on the question of free schools. Of this number only 18.8 per cent voted for free schools. In only two other counties in the state was there a greater vote against free schools than in Clay County.¹⁰ From 1848 to 1905, the entire collection of state school revenue was distributed after each collection. Since 1905 under the provision of the State Aid Law, a certain portion of state school revenue is withheld as a reserve for a relief fund for the benefit of those schools that are unable to finance themselves and maintain the full minimum school term.¹¹ All the townships and school corporations in Clay County are receiving state aid at the present time. To further show the opposition to free schools, one member of the General Assembly in 1837 made this statement, when taxation for school purposes was being discussed, "When I die, I want my epitaph written, 'Here lies an enemy to free schools'."¹²

There were very few expenses connected with the early schools. The wages paid men teachers in Clay County in 1857 were one dollar per day; while women teachers, and there were

¹¹ L. S. Bowan, State Auditor. Indiana State News Bulletin. (November 1, 1927). Volume II. Number 7.

¹² Richard C. Boone, op. cit., p. 87.

not many, received from sixty-five to seventy-five cents per day. The school terms were sixty to seventy days in length. The following is taken from a trustees record in Washington Township, Clay County, during the time of the Civil War. It indicates the wages paid teachers and the length of the school term.

September 28, 1863

Comes now Alexander Brighton, a school teacher of District No. 9 and makes his report according to law, of having taught a school in said district 71 days at \$1.25 per day and demands \$88.75 for said services. All of which being correct, it is ordered that said amount be allowed out of the common school funds.

Henry Moss--Trustee

There were but few books to buy, and wood for fuel was easily secured. No lengthy records and reports had to be made at this early date.

In addition to the interest on the Common School Fund and the Congressional Township Fund being used for support of the schools there are other sources, some only recently adopted. There is local taxation by means of which levies may be adopted for: tuition fund, school library, vocational, and kindergarten. The maximum tax levy for tuition purposes is seventy-five cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable property and one dollar on each poll. This is also the same for the special school fund except the maximum is twenty-five cents on each poll.¹³ According to a recent ruling of the State Board of Education, a school

¹³ Indiana School Laws. (1935). pp. 264-265.

corporation in order to qualify for state aid may levy only a fifty cent rate for the two funds and no levy on each taxable poll.

A state tuition support law was passed in 1933 and amended in 1937. This law provides for the distribution of \$700.00 annually for each teaching unit of thirty-five average daily attendance in the grades one to eight and twenty-five average daily attendance in the grades nine to twelve. This distribution is made semi-annually in January and July. The money is raised by means of a gross income tax. An excise fund made up of license fees collected from the manufacture and sale of liquors in the state are distributed to the schools after all the expenses of collection are paid. This fund is distributed semi-annually in May and November on the basis of the school enumeration. Of the intangible tax which is returned to each county by the state, seventy-five per cent is credited to the various school taxing units on the basis of assessed valuation of real property. This tax is distributed at the same time as the local tax collections. In order to raise money for the common school relief fund, a part of the seven cent state tax levy on each one hundred dollars and fifty cents upon each taxable poll is set aside. This fund is distributed to the taxing units that are unable to provide a minimum school program, according to standards adopted by the state board. There is also distributed annually to the local school corporation by the county auditor the receipts from the county dog fund. The Federal and State governments aid in the support of vocational

education. Besides these revenue sources of support of education, there are the non-revenue sources that include the sale of property, insurance adjustment, sale of bonds, temporary loans, transfer tuition, and miscellaneous.

CHAPTER VII

FUTURE EDUCATIONAL OUTLOOK IN CLAY COUNTY

The history of the education of Clay County is very much the same as that of any other average Indiana County. However a further look into the facts and figures reveals certain conditions that are worthy of some consideration. In the different taxing units of the county wide differences exist in the distribution of wealth back of each child to be educated. From Table VII it will be found that the total taxable wealth in the county for 1936 was \$17,711,815.00. In this same year the total enrollment of the county was 5,796. By using these figures, it was found that the average amount of taxable property back of each child enrolled was \$3,055.86. This is very much lower than the state average for the same period which was \$5,294.47. Table VII also reveals only two school taxing units, Brazil and Cass Township that have an average which is greater than that for the state. In order to eliminate the inequalities resulting from these conditions, the State Tuition Support Law was enacted. Previous reference has been made to this law. The greatest sum distributed under this law has been \$500 per teaching unit. However, under the amended law the state's share will be \$700 per teaching unit. By doing this the state is paying 7/8 of the minimum salary of grade teachers. The total amount of this fund

TABLE VII

THE AMOUNT OF TAXABLE PROPERTY SUPPORTING EACH CHILD
ENROLLED IN THE DIFFERENT SCHOOL CORPORATIONS,
BASED UPON 1936 VALUATIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Corporations	Total Valuation ¹	Enrollment ²	Average
Brazil	\$ 797,265.00	47	\$16,963.08
Cass	320,895.00	44	7,293.06
Dick Johnson	1,042,535.00	199	5,238.86
Harrison	2,003,275.00	635	3,156.33
Jackson	1,284,355.00	266	4,828.40
Lewis	1,074,400.00	564	1,904.96
Perry	856,260.00	250	3,421.04
Posey	2,263,185.00	519	4,360.66
Sugar Ridge	753,210.00	216	3,487.08
Van Buren	1,599,975.00	478	3,696.00
Washington	753,985.00	204	3,696.00
Carbon (town)	196,260.00	94	2,087.87
Center Point (town)	188,000.00	57	3,298.24
Knightsville (town)	247,040.00	136	1,816.47
Brazil (city)	4,331,175.00	3,087	2,075.31
Total	17,711,815.00	5,796	County Average 3,055.86

¹ The Brazil Daily Times. December 15, 1936.

² Indiana School Directory. (1936-37). pp. 59-63.

distributed to Clay County in 1936 was \$83.725.00, thus making it possible to lower the local tax rate.

All the townships and town corporations in the county are receiving state relief and during the first distribution of 1935-1936, \$39,691.64 was received in the county. The standards that have to be met in order to receive state relief have been discussed. In Table VIII is found the total tuition and special school tax levied in each corporation. It will be noted that the small incorporated towns maintaining schools find it necessary to have a high levy in order to raise sufficient money for educational purposes. Probably pride as much as anything prevents the citizens of these towns from disbanding their school corporation and joining the township. This would be more economical and tend to equalize the educational advantages. But the time will come when pride gives way to reason and the small school corporations will be abandoned.

In Table IX it is found that the total teaching personnel in the county is 212. There are in Clay County only two vocational agriculture teachers and one vocational home economics teacher. Clay County being predominantly an agricultural county could well afford to take a greater advantage of the Smith-Hughes law that provides for federal financial assistance for vocational work. The girls of today are the home makers of tomorrow and instead of school officials dropping home economics from the curriculum, more and broader courses should be established. With good roads and rapid means of transportation it is possible to have supervision of the district schools.

TABLE VIII

TUITION AND SPECIAL SCHOOL TAX RATE FOR CLAY COUNTY,
INDIANA FOR 1936, PAYABLE IN 1937³

Township	Tuition tax	Special school tax	Total
Brazil	.30	.70	1.00
Cass	.20	.55	.75
Dick Johnson	.50	.50	1.00
Harrison	.37	.57	.87
Jackson	.50	.50	1.00
Lewis	.40	.60	1.00
Perry	.55	.72	1.27
Posey	.41	.41	.82
Sugar Ridge	.50	.50	1.00
Van Buren	.25	.75	1.00
Washington	.35	.75	1.10
Carbon (town)	.75	.75	1.50
Center Point (town)	.55	.55	1.10
Clay City (town)	.37	.50	.87
Knightsville (town)	.60	.75	1.35
Staunton (town)	.41	.41	.82
Brazil (city)	.75	.625	1.375
Brazil (city, Jackson township)	.75	.625	1.375

NOTE: Each of these townships and corporations levied a poll tax of one dollar for the tuition and special school funds.

³ Tax Rate Sheet for 1936. Clay County, Indiana, payable in 1937.

TABLE IX
TEACHING PERSONNEL OF CLAY COUNTY DURING
THE SCHOOL YEAR 1936-1937

Position	Cities and towns	Townships
Senior High School Principal	1	
Junior High School Principal	1	
High School Principal		7
Elementary Principal	6	
Supervisor	7	
Vocational Teacher	1	2
Classroom Teacher	60	127
Total	76	136

⁴ Indiana School Directory, (1936-1937). pp. 60-63.

Certainly the pupils in these schools are entitled to supervision as well as those in the city.

Teaching which now requires four years of preparation is not looked upon so much as a stepping stone to some other profession. The writer knows many doctors, members of the bar, and insurance men today who made their start by teaching several terms of school. Teachers' salaries should be arranged on a schedule recognizing training and experience. This would aid in keeping in the profession many who otherwise would be induced to secure work in more attractive fields. In Table X is listed the county officers and the yearly salaries each receives. With the exception of the surveyor, county superintendent of schools and the county agent, no educational qualifications are required of the county officers. The surveyor receives more than the amount shown in Table X for he is also paid for serving as county highway superintendent. Teachers with four years' college training and several years of experience are receiving less than the county assessor. The public has been slow in realizing that the small salary which the teachers receives for eight or nine months work must pay for support over a period of twelve months. A few years ago in one township in Clay County it was suggested to the trustee by the advisory board that the teacher's contracts be let to the lowest bidder. Fortunately in Indiana we have a minimum wage law. The salaries of Clay County principals range from \$1280 to \$2400; only two, however, receive \$2,000 or more.

TABLE X
SALARIES OF CLAY COUNTY OFFICERS AS ESTABLISHED
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1933⁶

Officer	Salary
Auditor	\$2400 (plus 6 per cent on personal delinquents)
Treasurer	2040
Clerk	2080
Sheriff	2080
Recorder	1320
Surveyor--Serves as Highway Superintendent	1075
County Superintendent	1840
County Commissioners (3)	380 (each)
Assessor	1200
County Agent	2900

⁶ Laws of the State of Indiana. (Indianapolis: William H. Burford Printing Company, 1933). pp. 93-94.

According to Table XI Clay County reached its peak in population in 1900 and each succeeding census has shown a decline. The same was true of the school enrollment and one would expect school costs to decline. But expanded curriculums, transportation of students and a fluctuation in the value of the dollar has kept school costs high. For the school year of 1935-1936 the grand total of all expenditures for education in Clay County was \$512,442.26.⁹ The indebtedness of the township and towns is \$94,800.00 and for Brazil city \$71,800.00, making a total of \$176,600.00 for the county.

As yet the citizens of no township or school corporation have taken advantage of the free text book law passed in 1935.

All the high schools of the county are commissioned which means that they have met the requirements established by the state, and the graduates are admitted to the higher institutions of learning without an entrance examination. Also county high school graduates may be found attending the leading colleges and universities of the state. Preference is usually shown those schools nearest Clay County. Clay County has the second largest enrollment of any county of the state at Indiana State Teachers College, being exceeded only by Vigo County. Most of the teachers of Clay County have attended or graduated from Indiana State Teachers College, Purdue, Indiana, or Depauw Universities.

⁹ Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Reprinted from the 1936 Yearbook. pp. 14-23.

TABLE XI
POPULATION OF CLAY COUNTY BY DECADES

Year	Population	Per cent of increase or decrease
1830	1,616	
1840	5,567	244
1850	7,800	40
1860	12,121	55
1870	19,084	57
1880	25,839	35
1890 ⁷	30,497	18
1900	34,285	12
1910	32,535	- 5
1920	29,447	- 9
1930 ⁸	26,472	- 10

(-) Denotes decrease.

⁷ William Travis, A History of Clay County, Indiana. (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1909). p. 190.

⁸ Fifteenth Census of the United States. (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1931). Vol. I. p. 336.

Clay County has steadily advanced in the furthering of education. Mistakes have been made and there is much yet to be done. But the citizens realize that the state suffers economically, socially, and politically unless the children receive the best education obtainable.

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Much data have been secured by the writer through personal interviews with the county superintendent, city superintendent of Brazil, retired school teachers, and local historians.

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